

### REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, entry of the foregoing is respectfully requested. By the present amendment claims 4-9, 32-41, and 45-50 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter described therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims directed to any subject matter that may have been canceled in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

In the Office Action mailed December 14, 2004, the Office maintained rejections of claims 4-9, 32-41, and 45-50 for reasons of record. Claim 9 has also been objected to on formal grounds. Applicants continue to disagree with the alleged reasons for rejection of these claims, at least for the reasons that have been previously stated. However, in order to expedite issuance of a patent containing claims that have been indicated as allowable, claims 4-9, 32-41, and 45-50 have been canceled by the present amendment.

Therefore, all outstanding rejections and objections are moot. The Office has indicated that the currently pending claims are allowed. Withdrawal of the rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowance of the currently pending claims is requested.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

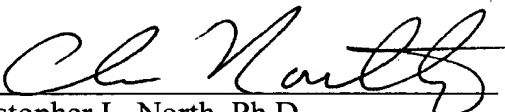
In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: May 31, 2005

By:   
Christopher L. North, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 50,433

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620